

**Abstract**

A protective layer (7) which is relatively permeable for CO<sub>2</sub> and relatively impermeable for SO<sub>2</sub> is designed so as to yield a reduced penetration time for CO<sub>2</sub> molecules.

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The protective layer (7) is composed of a gas-permeable carrier (10) made of a material which is resistant to sulfuric acid media such as SO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>3</sub>, has a surface (8) that can be exposed to a gas and is provided with an oxidizing agent whose oxidation potential is sufficient to oxidize SO<sub>2</sub>.

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(Figure 1)

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